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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY, JULY 27, 2004

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1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for July 27, 2004. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. Tercuman, Evrensel, Vakit, Cumhuriyet, Yeni Safak, Turkiye: According to NTV news, General Charles Wald, Vice Commander of the US Forces in Europe, announced that Washington would like to deploy 48 F-16 warplanes, currently in Germany, at Incirlik Air Base unconditionally and without any restrictions. The Turkish GOT has not made up its mind about the matter yet.

3. Tercuman, Hurriyet: Through his lawyers, Abdullah Ocalan gave messages from Imrali Island, where he is imprisoned, to PKK/Kongra Gel militants. Ocalan declared himself as a "spiritual leader," and claimed that Celal Talabani was organizing a plot against Turkey. Ocalan added that Talabani dreamed of founding "Greater Kurdistan" and declaring Van as the capital of that state, and that he tried to use him for that end. Ocalan praised Kemalism, but also criticized it for ignoring the Kurdish issue due to pressure from Britain. Ocalan accused his brother, Osman Ocalan, of cooperating with Talabani and also of suggesting that the Americans exclude him (Abdullah Ocalan) from the solution to the Kurdish question. Ocalan claimed that the United States was trying to start a real war through the Kurdish nationalists.

4. Tercuman: Mines planted by PKK/Kongra Gel militants in the rural Semdinli, Hakkari province, exploded, killing five cattle. Jandarma are conducting an investigation on the explosion.

5. Turkiye: PKK/Kongra Gel militants ambushed a jandarma team in Yenyazi, Bingol province. One soldier and one village guard were killed, while six guards were wounded.

6. Tercuman: An explosion occurred in Hakkari July 26 around midnight. According to the information obtained from the police radio announcements, the explosion happened in the Hakkari Security Directorate's ammunition storage area. No casualties were reported, but there was reportedly damage done to security vehicles. Hurriyet newspaper reported that Hakkari Governor, Erdogan Gurbuz, announced that the explosives were remote bombs dropped at the Security Directorate's wall by terrorists.

7. Ulkede Ozgur Gundem: Approximately four thousand people attended the "Peace Festivity" organized by the Municipality of Silvan, Diyarbakir province. People sang peace songs, and voiced their demand for peace during the celebration. Silvan Mayor, Fikret Kaya, said the organizers would turn the one-day event into a festival next year. The crowd chanted "President Ocalan" during the festivities.

8. Ulkede Ozgur Gundem: Siirt Mayor, Mervan Gul, appointed Abdurrahman Tetik as his deputy. Tetik had been convicted some time ago for assisting and harboring Hizbullah militants. Eruh Mayor, Hamit Nas, is also accused of similar charges. Nas is facing three pending cases, and he had been imprisoned for two years.

9. Ulkede Ozgur Gundem: DEHAP's Tunceli Provincial Office condemned the attack by MKP/HKO (Marxist Communist Party/Peoples Liberation Army) members in Tunceli's Pulumur township in which one person was killed and one wounded.

10. Ulkede Ozgur Gundem: Peoples Defense Forces (HPG) militants attacked a security checkpoint on the Semdinli-Yuksekovali highway in Hakkari province on July 22, killing one officer and three soldiers. HPG militants attacked police check-points and security buildings in Cukurca, Hakkari province, on July 23, and

claimed to have killed many GOT forces. One HPG militant was killed during the attack. GOT forces launched a large-scale operation around Cilo Mountain on July 23.

11. Evrensel, Ulkede Ozgur Gundem: The "Sheep Shearing Festival" had been celebrated in Sirnak province for centuries before being interrupted in 1990 during the violence. It was revived on July 23 by the Beytussebap Municipality in the Lalesi Pasture. Thousands of people attended the festival that lasted for three days.

12. Sabah: The CHP Parliamentarians' (MPs') report on the recent drug-related events in Van said that Van Governor Tan told the MPs that the state did not exist for an hour during the incident. The report states that: the police have politically been besieged and did not fire one single bullet during the raid; there is no confidence in the narcotics police; a certain group engaged in drug-related activities has been providing profits to state authorities; and, some tribes in the province have established their own forces. The report indicated that the former Van lawmaker, Mustafa Bayram, raided the police station with 25 armed persons carrying long-barreled weapons, and that Bayram's son, who is the mayor of Edremit, broke the nose of Narcotics Director with the butt/handle of his pistol.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

13. Hurriyet: The Southeastern Anatolian Regional Development Administration (GAP Administration) President, Muammer Yasar Ozgul, announced that approximately \$545 million had been allocated this year for the GAP project, which requires \$14.4 billion in order to be completed. Initially, the project was planned to for completion in 2005, but with current funding levels it may be difficult to finalize the project even in 2010. Spending of \$32 billion was envisioned for the GAP Project, which started in 1989. Only 52% of the financial investment has been realized. The project includes construction of a number of dams over the Tigris, Euphrates and their tributaries for energy purposes, and irrigation schemes for promoting agriculture. While 73% of the energy project has been realized, irrigation projects have remained at 13%.

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